



# Cathy McMorris

7th District State Representative

## 2001 Questionnaire Results

### Serving citizens in...

- Ferry
- Lincoln
- Okanogan
- Pend Oreille
- Spokane and
- Stevens counties

### Committees:

- State Government,  
*Co-chair*
- Commerce and Labor
- Health Care
- Western States  
Forestry Task Force
- Joint Legislative Audit &  
Review Committee

### Olympia office:

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Dear Friends,

Thank you for responding to the legislative questionnaire I mailed to you earlier this year. Your responses were very insightful and I appreciate your taking the time to share with me your opinions.

One of the top legislative priorities you marked in the survey was health care. It's certainly been one of my top priorities during this session.

In my earlier newsletter to you, I told you that I would focus my energies this year toward preserving rural access to health care. Many of our rural hospitals are struggling to keep their doors open largely because of rising medical costs and declining reimbursement rates from government health plans. Hospitals have been reimbursed only a fraction of their costs from Medicaid. Our rural hospitals have been hit the hardest because they serve a larger number of low-income and underinsured residents.

This year, in an effort to help struggling rural hospitals and health care facilities, I introduced legislation that would provide at-cost reimbursements to those with a "Critical Access Hospital" designation. Health care facilities within the 7<sup>th</sup> District which have this designation are in Davenport, Deer Park and Odessa. Grand Coulee, which borders the 7<sup>th</sup> District, also is under this designation.

I'm pleased to report efforts to help these hospitals were successful. The Legislature passed the measure and sent it to the governor who signed it into law.

Soon, I will be providing a full report of the Legislature's activities and how the 7<sup>th</sup> District fared during the regular and special sessions. In the meantime, I'd like to share with you the questionnaire results so that you may see how you and your neighbors in the 7<sup>th</sup> District responded.

Again, thank you for the honor of allowing me to serve you. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Cathy McMorris  
State Representative

*Thank you for sharing your views with me through my legislative survey. I received more than 2,200 responses. Here's how you answered the questions:*

**Legislative Priorities**

1. Rank the issues which are important to you.

	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice
Health Care	20%
Property Taxes	18%
Education	16%
Crime	15%
Energy Supplies	11%
Environment	8%
Modify GMA	7%
Transportation	4%
Social Services	1%

**Education**

2. Different ideas have been offered about how to improve K-12 education in our state. What are your education priorities? Please rank the following in level of importance to you.

	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice
Improve teacher training	31%
Reduce class size	24%
Increase academic requirements for graduation	22%
Allow school levies to pass with simple majority	13%
Raise teacher salaries	8%
Provide housing subsidy for teachers living in high cost-of-living areas	1%
Offer higher salary levels for teachers living in high cost-of-living areas	1%

**Transportation**

3. Please rank the following transportation solutions in order of importance to you.

	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice
Better road maintenance	50%
More roads and lanes of traffic	23%
Better transportation alternatives (e.g. rapid transit, expand local bus services)	18%
Reduce traffic on existing roads	5%
Pedestrian & bike paths	4%

**Elections**

4. Which do you support for our state's primary election system?

A blanket primary, in which voters are allowed to pick candidates from any party for any office	84%
An "open" primary, which doesn't require registration, but does require voters to choose a single party's ballot on election day	9%
A "closed" primary, in which voters must formally register a party affiliation before the election	7%

**Energy**

5. Population growth, reduced snow pack, low reservoirs, and California's problems have combined to heavily strain our state's energy supply. Please rank the following energy proposals in order of importance to you.

	1 <sup>st</sup> choice
Stop sending Pacific Northwest-generated power to bail out California	42%
Encourage development of generation facilities through a combination of tax breaks and reduction of regulatory barriers	36%
Encourage citizens to conserve electricity	13%
Impose temporary price caps on wholesale power	9%

**Government Regulations**

6. The Department of Ecology has proposed changes to the state's Shoreline Management Act (SMA) that would restrict the use of land abutting a river, lake or other shoreline. Some people are concerned that these new restrictions take away individuals' property rights and hurt rural economic development. How do you feel?

Revise the SMA so it won't hurt property owners and rural economic development	78%
Leave the SMA changes the way they are now	22%

**Health Care**

7. How should prescription drug discounts for seniors be funded?

The state should fund them	55%
Pharmacies should fund them	45%